

Date:

Tackle impossible task—

Russians try to outtalk 13-year-old American

DRYAN, Tex., Sept. 6 — Mickey Craft, 13, may only be 13 but someone in Moscow is fighting a losing game in trying to change Mickey's opinions of Russia.

The young Texan surmised in his reaction to a 10-minute shortwave radio broadcast from Moscow intended for him by saying

"I think about half of it was a lot of baloney."

HE PICKED up the broadcast on his shortwave radio set Saturday night and he played a tape recording of it for reporters yesterday.

Mickey grinned and groaned a little when the voice of Radio Moscow accused him of making "completely wrong" statements about the Soviet Union.

His exchanges with Moscow started last Spring when the Moscow announcer said some things about the United States Mickey didn't like.

He sent Moscow a letter giving some of his opinions. The letter was answered on the radio program.

IN HIS LETTER Mickey challenged the program's comparison of Russian and American military spending.

"As far as excessive defense spending," he wrote, "the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) reports that you spend more but hide it under various fronts while ours is all out in the open."

The Russian Radio announcer said:

"Mr. Craft, you are free to believe what the Central Intelligence Agency says, but if I were you I wouldn't pay much attention to the CIA. Remember that the CIA told Francis Powers our rockets wouldn't fire 20,000 feet high, but you remember what happened to the U-2 and what happened to Francis Powers."

Mickey grinned at that.

"If their rockets are effective at that altitude, why didn't they shoot a U-2 down long ago?" he

asked. "They've been flying over Russia for two years."

In his letter Mickey compared the Russian standard of living with that of the United States. This set off a flood of statistics from the Russian announcer. Most of them concerned Russian goals for 1965.

Mickey isn't finished. He has a few more questions and comments.

CPYRGHT